



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD SOUTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the First Things First South Phoenix Regional Partnership Council; Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on January 18, 2011 in the Governing Board Rom at Cartwright Elementary School District, 3401 North 67th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85033. Chair Robert Donofrio called the regular meeting to order at 4:46 pm.

Council Members in Attendance: Robert Donofrio, At Large Member and Chair; James Washington, Business Member and Vice Chair; Kristi Langley-Wells, School Administrator Member, Jasmine Sanchez, Parent member; Dr. Ida Rose Florez, At Large Member; Dr. Patricia Merk, Educator member.

Members Not in Attendance: Reverend Charles Newman, Faith Based Member; Dr. Eva Marie Shivers, At Large Member; Riann Balch, Child Care Provider member; and Mary Thomson, Philanthropy Member.

Quorum: Established.

Staff in Attendance: Jonathon Gonzales, Regional Coordinator; Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant, Rana Hermosillo, Community Outreach Liaison, and Tracey Craig, Regional Manager.

Chair Donofrio welcomed all guests in attendance and requested that they introduce themselves.

2. CONSENT AGENDA: Vice Chair Washington moved to accept the consent agenda item which included the special meeting minutes of December 6, 2010, second by Member Dr. Merk, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: **Anne Varner**, one of the Managers for the Maricopa County Department of Public Health Child Care Health Consultants provided an update on the program. Ms. Varner advised that the trainings held so far in January have been successful and full. Currently, forty eight (48) child care programs are being served with forty one (41) of those centers in quality First and the remaining seven (7) independent. Ms. Varner advised that she will be connecting with Outreach Coordinator Rana Hermosillo to determine better ways to market the Child Care Health Consultant program in the South Phoenix Region. Ms. Varner advised that the first year of the Child Care Health Consultants was spent getting established and providing almost three hundred fifty (350) trainings within Maricopa County where several thousand people received training. Ms. Varner and her team would like to focus on more community trainings this year and continue collaboration with the Quality First Coaches as well as other First Things First providers that are involved with the Quality First Centers in order to maximize the Center's time. Child Care Health Consultants will also focus on policy development. **Robert Bell**, Children's Justice Coordinator for Maricopa County through Childhelp and a Coach for the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition which he is presenting on behalf of today. Mr. Bell explained that the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition began in 2009 as a collaborative effort of first responders to a child homicide. The Child Abuse Prevention Coalition was established in order to analyze and assess how the community could work in a collaborative effort to prevent child abuse. The need to instruct individuals mandated to report in Maricopa County was already being met, but there was nothing in place for permissible reporters. After the need was determined, the mission was developed to educate the community and provide members with the necessary resources to prevent and report child abuse – not just mandated reporters, but everyone in the County. The Coalition has grown to add a collaboration of over forty (40) organizations and agencies. The Coalition recently developed a partnership with the Central Maricopa Region who provided sponsorship in the amount of twenty seven thousand dollars (\$27,000.00) which will be used for a media campaign that will include an event at the State Capital on April 7, 2011 for Child

Abuse Prevention month which has been designated as April. The Coalition is looking at the South Phoenix Region and feels that there is an opportunity to collaborate with the structure already in place with home visitation partners. In response to Chair Donofrio's question of where the funding for the Coalition comes from, Mr. Bell advised that the funding comes from the community, and members donate their time for meetings and special projects. Chair Donofrio asked that Jonathon follow up to see if part of discretionary funds can be used to help the Coalition. Jonathon advised that this item will be placed on the agenda for February.

Both individuals for call to the public were thanked by Chair Donofrio on behalf of the Council for their presentations and useful information.

4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH LIAISON UPDATE: Chair Donofrio thanked the committee that helped in the hiring process for Outreach Liaison Rana Hermosillo who comes to the Council with a tremendous amount of background to the Council's benefit. Rana started off with a notice that she will be submitting a budget to use some of her funding as seed money for the Child Abuse Prevention Coalition. Chair Donofrio asked Coordinator Gonzales if money can be allocated for the Coalition from discretionary funds. Rana presented to the Council an update on information provided in their packets to include a newsletter for December, and her outreach report for January. Rana advised that she has been setting up site visits through March in order to prep families for her visit so that they are aware why she is there and may need a release and permission if their picture is taken. Rana informed the Council that she is also collaborating and bringing along other grantees that provide services. Rana has been in contact with the Parent Liaisons at Isaacs School District to build a stronger collaboration between all School Districts in the South Phoenix Region. In speaking to eight Parent Liaisons about First Things First, not one of them knew about First Things First. Rana was able to bring the Parent Liaisons up to speed so that they could pass the information on to their parents. Rana further reported that for those in the community that do know about First Things First; they have a hard time differentiating between program and who First Things First is. Rana provided a flow chart to the Council that she put together that explains First Things First and the programs that it funds. Rana asked the Council for their input and explained that this must go through Communications to get branded prior to going out to members of the community. Chair Donofrio suggested that a brief sentence be added to describe what each program is. Vice Chair Washington requested that Rana extend an invitation to the Council to meet with different agencies that Rana feels the Council may benefit from. Rana ended with an issue that she feels needs to be addressed. Rana informed the Council that she has received not so positive feedback from community members about First Things First and the lack of accessibility to either address the Council or talk about what they are doing in the Community. The community members that Rana spoken with have the perception that First Things First is not for local community partners; i.e. grassroots, and local non profits. Rana feels that it would be beneficial for the Council to speak to some of the community partners that she has spoken to. Rana advised that she can set up site visits for the Council to accompany her. Chair Donofrio suggested that the availability schedules of those individuals in the community who Rana has identified be sent out to the Council so that Members of the Council can go when they are available. Coordinator Gonzales advised that his initial idea of pairing up Members of the Council was so that the new Members would go with seasoned Members for the grantee visits. Jonathon also advised that the visits may be overwhelming for the grantees. Rana reiterated that the visits that she was speaking of were for non grantees not grantees. Chair Donofrio advised that it is time for a town hall to give an overview of First Things First and have community members address the issues that they might be having. Coordinator Gonzales added that many of the non profits and grassroots programs do not have the capacity to respond to State Procurement and that resources such as ASU Loadstar, Patrick McWhorter and the Non Profit Association as well as St. Lukes TAP should be invited to the town Hall Meeting to address capacity issues. The consensus of the Council was to have the Town Hall meeting soon. Rana informed the Council that a networking symposium with Tanner Community Development Corporation is in the works for the South, North, and Central Phoenix areas to talk about how to partner within the communities and collaborate between grantees. Rana was thanked for her excellent report by Chair Donofrio.

Dr. Ida Rose Florez suggested that the Council consider Developmental Evaluation which is an internal/external needs and assets that may address some of the disconnect issues that community members and grantees are expressing.

5. COORDINATOR UPDATES: Coordinator Gonzales reviewed with the Council Data Summary Reports, Regional Summary Reports, and included in packets Statewide Reports. Dr. Florez questioned if under Home Visitation, the number of children eligible for services should be developmental evaluation. Jonathon explained that the individual trained to do the reports is not necessarily who is filling out the report. Jonathon will check with Evaluation to get clarification. Jonathon advised that the information is for the first quarter and that it would be better to look at the whole snapshot at the end of the year to get a better picture. Jonathon further explained that summary reports are also taken into consideration to determine if any issues are present. Dr. Merk advised that there was a lot of confusion between grantees on their interpretation of what belongs where on the report. Jonathon also referred to the expenditures to date.

Strategy Work dates and Workgroups: Jonathon advised that the Request for Grant Application went out for Oral Health and Care Coordination. Jonathon would like the Council to participate in a workgroup to develop pending evaluation work components with the Evaluation Department. Jonathon also advised that he would like for the Crisis Prevention workgroup to meet monthly or two times per month to fine tune Crisis Prevention which addresses homeless families in the South Phoenix Region; and submit the strategy to the State Board before the end of the fiscal year for their approval. Jonathon is working on the Leadership Center Request for Proposal (RFP) that will allow for a consultant to work with the Council and guide them through the development process to include obtaining community input. Jonathon expressed that he would like to have commitment from the Council to get the remaining strategies fine tuned and finalized.

Chair Donofrio requested the Council review the conflict of interest included in their packets.

St. Lukes Report: The final draft was included in the Council packets for their review. Jonathon thinks that the report may come in under budget and will let the Council know the final cost once that information is available. Jonathon advised that First Things First owns the data. Jonathon advised that the Council can request further analysis of the data if they choose. Jonathon was thanked for his wonderful report by Chair Donofrio.

6. COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES: Chair Donofrio sent out in a mass email which included training provided by New Directions Institute a series of Brain Development Workshops through First Things First all over the State. Dr. Donofrio advised that he has accepted the invitation to participate in the Finance Subcommittee for First Things First. Dr. Donofrio asked the Council if they had anything that they would like for him to bring to the committee and listed the things that he will bring up at the next meeting to include: Three year contracts for those not meeting the scope of work; subcontract mediation; smaller Councils having smaller thresholds – the Finance Committee needs to review what those thresholds are; Would like to see the Centrally located office move workers into their Region based on the number of the children served; discretionary funding should be formula based.

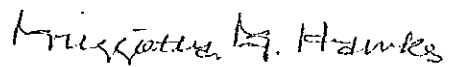
Dr. Merk: Is on the Family Support Subcommittee for First Things First; and the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension has a statewide contract to provide sixteen hours (16 hours) of brain development to statewide child care providers.

Vice Chair Washington: Jasmine and James met with Representative Tovar who is a strong supporter – former Kindergarten teacher and First Grade Teacher. James reported that it was interesting to hear Representative Tovar's perspective on the budget and was candid about where the Legislature is looking to make funding cuts which include mental health, education, and health.

7. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: February 15, 2011 – Travis L. Williams Family Services Center 4732 South Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85040.

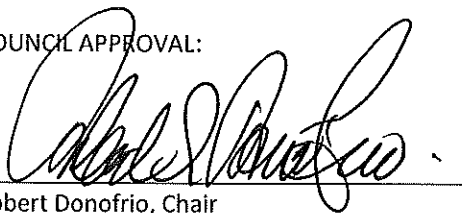
8. ADJOURNMENT: Member Kristi Langley-Wells moved to adjourn the regular meeting, second by Member Jasmine Sanchez, all in favor, no discussion; meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Briggetta Hawks, Administrative Assistant

COUNCIL APPROVAL:



Robert Donofrio, Chair

APPROVED:



Jonathon Gonzales, Regional Coordinator